

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 1 at page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The present application relates to subject matters described in ~~an application which will be filed around February 28, 2001 by U.S. Patent No. 6,502,474 issued on January 7, 2003 to~~ H. Sakamoto, T. Minowa, T. Okada, M. Kayano and T. Ochi, and entitled “APPARATUS AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING A VEHICLE” and assigned to the assignee of the present application, and to subject matters described in ~~an application which will be filed around February 28, 2001 U.S. Patent application serial No. 09/791,750 filed on February 26, 2001 by~~ N. Ozaki, T. Matsumura, T. Minowa, T. Okada and T. Ochi and entitled “AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION CONTROL METHOD AND AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION CONTROLLER” and assigned to the assignee of the present application. The disclosures of these applications are incorporated herein by reference.